THE ARLINGTON

ESTABLISHED 1872 ~ VOL. 132, NO. 51 • THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005 • ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS • 75¢

Finalist moves forward

Super talks resume tonight

By Brooke Leister

The School Committee Tuesday voted in favor of conducting a site visit to Harvard where superintendent finalist Nate Levenson is assistant superintendent of schools in Harvard.

Committee member Jeff Thielman made the motion Tuesday evening dur-

ing a more than four-hour meeting that included a fourth finalist interview. At 11:30 p.m., the committee voted to recess until 7 p.m. today. Thielman made the

motion of the Levenson site visit because he can not attend tonight's

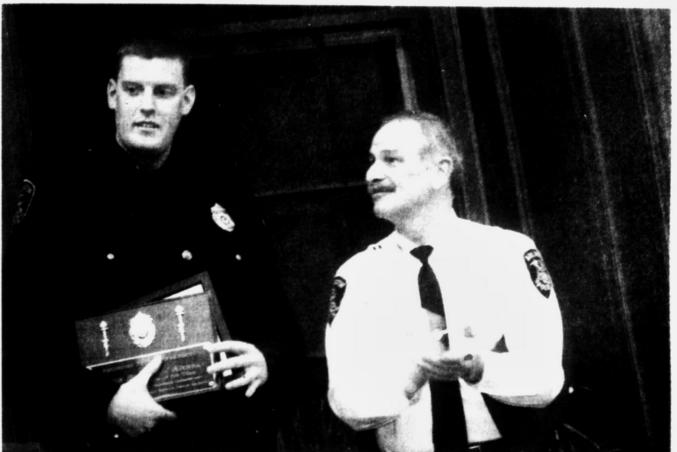
Because enough board members expressed support for Levenson earlier in the evening, he said it was fair to make the motion. Earlier in the meet-

ing, committee members Martin Thrope, Suzanne Baratta Owayda, Sue Sheffler and Thielman expressed strong support for Levenson. Committee members Barbara Goodman, Joani LaMachia and Chairman Paul Schlichtman noted the positive attributes of other candidates.

"No matter what happens, we're going to do a site visit for Levenson. That's all we're doing — the first of a series of site visits," Schlichtman said before the vote was taken.

Committee member Barbara Goodman disagreed with the motion. She repeatedly expressed concern about not having enough time to fully review the mountain of paperwork pertaining to each candidate and questioned the wisdom in voting on

Superintendent, Page 17



Officer Brendan Kiernan receives the Officer of the Year award during a ceremony at Town Hall Monday. Applauding Kiernan is Capt. Richard McLaughlin.

Brendan Kiernan is top cop

Town honors its finest Monday

By Roberto Scalese

Town officials, family and friends greeted several Arlington police officers Monday night during an award ceremony set to honor the town's top

The awards ceremony, which gave out civilian awards along with commendations and ribbons for officers. was set in the Selectmen's Hearing Room at Town Hall. The packed room responded warmly to the recipients as they were told of each officer's bravery in the line of duty.

dan Kiernan, who was named officer of the year for 2004. Police Chief Fred Ryan lauded Kiernan for "his faithful and conscientious performance of duty.

"His high level of confidence and command presence serves as an image for others to emulate and his courteousness repeatedly earns public praise," said Ryan.

Kiernan said the honor came as a surprise. He was unaware of the award until he came into work Monday.

"It feels good," said Kiernan. "I try to work hard every night so it feels good to be recognized.

Fifteen officers received Meritorious Service Ribbons for bravery in the face of bodily harm while performing their duties.

Sgt. David McNamee and officers Michael Hogan and Donald Brown were awarded for an arrest they made



Officer James Smith looks at his certificate of commendation for his work with the town's youths.

of an individual who had threatened a resident and was reportedly headed to the person's home. Officers found the perpetrator carrying a Tek-9 assault weapon.

Officers Bryan Gallagher and Dennis Mahoney received ribbons for their part in tracking down an individual who had threatened to kill himself. By the time firefighters and EMTs arrived at the victim's home, he was gone. The officers devised a plan to search for the man, and found him in a gully next to Thorndike Field.

"These guys just didn't give up," said

Lt. James White received the award for finding an Alzheimer's patient who

had wandered from home. The man was found on the ground in Saint Paul's Cemetery.

Sergeants Frank Bourgeois and Richard Pedrini and officers Robert Pedrini, Ronald Kerr, Douglas Cronin, Gregory Flavin, Sean Heatherman and Edward Savill were honored for their role in subduing a man who was determined to make the officers kill

"It's called suicide by cop. The situation clearly could have led to a situation where the suspect or an officer could be injured or killed, but we didn't have to give out so much as a Band-Aid," said Ryan.

Officers, Page 19

Center spot tops for accidents

By Les Masterson

Massachusetts/Mystic/Pleasant once ment. again topped the list of intersections with the most motor vehicle accidents during the first 11 months of 2004.

In fact, all but two of the top 10 trouble spots are along Massachusetts Avenue. Massachusetts Avenue is the most widely used road in town (not including Route 2, of course) and with more traffic means more opportunities for accidents

Most of the 22 accidents reported at the Center spot did not cause injury though. On the other hand, there are locations like Massachusetts Avenue and Lake Street where nearly half of the accidents caused injuries.

Police Chief Fred Ryan suggested the accidents at the Center are a combination of more traffic and the complex turn signals. Transportation Advisory Committee Chairman Ed Starr said TAC was reviewing the intersection, along with Mystic/Chestnut, Mass./Medford and Mass./Franklin, before the

Inside

Giving back

ing their time.

In neutral

Arlington High School

students are volunteer-

Two home rule petitions

that would allow Arling-

allowing package stores

ber of full liquor licenses

and doubling the num-

in town have stalled in

the Legislature.

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tonians to decide on

selectmen in August asked the committee to work on transportation issues The Arlington Center intersection of associated with the Symmes develop-

"(Mass/Mystic/Pleasant) has both the highest number of vehicular crashes, and, more importantly, the highest number of pedestrian crashes in Arlington," said Starr. "In addition, its operation is rather confusing to drivers that are not familiar with this group of intersections. It is also where the bikeway crosses Mass. Avenue, creating more complexity.

The Center intersection work has been set aside until the Symmes transportation work is finished, probably in late spring, said Starr.

"We are analyzing seven different modes of intersection operation, which includes every reasonable variant we could come up with," said Starr. "The problem will be that most of the improvements will require new controllers, and there are currently no funds for these. When we return to working on this issue, we will consider various tradeoffs.

Accidents, Page 9

Big Dig engineer gets big honor

By Roberto Scalese

n Arlington man will be given a major award by the British government for his work in engineering around the world.

Stephen Taylor will be named a Commander in the Order of the British Empire in May. The honor is one of the highest a civilian can receive in the United Kingdom and will be given to Taylor for his life's work, including his time working on the Big Dig.

The announcement of the award was made on New Year's

Eve by Queen Elizabeth II. Taylor, who has lived in Arlington for nearly 10 years, is one of several British citizens receiving the honor this year.

Taylor said the event is a thrill for his family, as will be meeting another awardwinner, Roger Daltry of The Who.

"It's a very high civil honor. I've been invited to Buckingham Palace by the Queen," said Taylor. "The news of this came out of the blue."

According to a release by the British Consulate, the rank of commander (CBE) is the third most senior rank of the Order of the British Empire, one of the Orders of Chivalry awarded by HM The Queen. The Most Excellent Order of

the British Empire was established in 1917 and is awarded to individuals in recognition of their contributions to British interests in the UK and abroad.

Taylor's crowning achievement has been the Fort Point Channel tunnel work in the Big Dig project. Taylor, vice president of Hatch Mott McDonald, ran the firm's Boston office for the project

Building the Fort Point Channel tunnel posed several problems for the Big Dig engineers. The highway would have to pass under tracks leading out from South Station to the rest of the country.

Those tracks carry more than 400 trains a day, and shutting down the railway would cause massive disruption for commuters, industries

and businesses in Boston. So any solution would have to keep the tracks in

Boring a tunnel was out, too, because the soils under the rail bed were incredibly soft. Two-thirds of Boston is built on landfill. That left a layer of fill with every type of junk imaginable, including bricks, oyster shells, old wharf ends, pilings and other industrial waste from the turn of the last century. The 20 feet of fill is followed by the old harbor bed and material under the bed were saturated and soft. Trying to bore a hole through this gunk



Stephen Taylor

wouldn't work.

"It's really a mish-mash of industrial fill," said Taylor.

Taylor had to find a way to dig a hole in ground that wouldn't support its own weight, and do so without disturbing the busiest rail exchange this side of New

Taylor, Page 19

Lowell St. plan tabled

By Roberto Scalese

Plans for a subdivision along Lowell Street called Colonial Circle hit a major snag Monday when the Board of Selectmen declined to consider a new roadway

The selectmen moved to table discussion of any new road at the property and indicated they have no plans on taking up the issue again in the near

"We've tabled this forever, as far as I'm concerned," said Selectman Charles

The selectmen also serve as the town's Board of Survey. As Board of Survey, the selectmen have four major items by which to consider proposed roads: Direction, location, width and grade. That strict interpretation allowed the board to approve a road plan for Knowles Farm, despite vocal complaints from advocates and neighbors last month.

The Lowell Street property, however, is located in a historic district. That gives the Historic District Commissions the final say over how the property can

be developed. The developer James Mackey's representative Robert Scarano said the roadway plans meet all the engineering

Colonial, Page 9



Church closes

Immaculate Conception Church, on Alewife Brook Parkway in Cambridge, closed its doors Sunday. The parish served Arlington resi-

Remembering King

Arlington High School is scheduling a month's worth of events in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Fund raiser helps family

A fund-raising dance for the family of Kenneth Dao, a Stratton secondgrader, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14 at the Sons of Italy Hall, 19 Prentiss

Last year, the youngster was diagnosed with a brain stem tumor.

The event will include music, food, a cash bar, a silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$25 at the door.

For more information, call Kathleen Harris at 781-646-3456, Kathy Femia at 781-641-2147, Whitney Hawker(Brown) at 781-483-3965 or Elaine Duffy 781-643-1466.

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by Robert Bowes, CRB, CRS

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construction may help in finding spec homes.

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of finding a buyer who will present him- or herself during construction

or soon after construction is completed. A so-called "spec" house is

usually built on a singular basis. It provides the interested buyer with

the unique opportunity of contributing some design and material input during the construction process. In the end, the buyer gets a

semi-custom home at a price that is considerably lower than that of a custom home. Moreover, because spec homes are often built on isolated lots in mature neighborhoods, they afford buyers with the combined

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HINT: Real estate agents with close ties to builders and new

The Arlington Advocate

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offices (CNC). Annual cost of home delivery via mail is \$43 in-town, \$60

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In Arlington Center

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The following are excerpts from the

Arlington Police Department log. The information is open to the public.

Monday, Jan. 3

- At 7:11 a.m., police received a call from Lesley Ellis School after someone wrote profanities on a door.
- At 8:59 a.m., a Coolidge Road resident requested extra patrols after someone damaged a car.
- At 4:07 p.m., police responded to Park Avenue after a motorist reported someone threw an object at a passing car, damaging paint on the hood and fender.
- At 4:37 p.m., police received a call from Massachusetts Avenue after a thief stole a black bike that was locked to a

Tuesday, Jan. 4

- At 11:24 a.m., police restored order after a customer didn't want to pay for a failed car inspection at a Broadway service station.
- At 3:03 p.m., officers spoke to two youths and their parents after a reported bullying incident on Highland Avenue.
- At 5:13 p.m., a Summer Street resident called police after someone allegedly entered a home and stole legal documents. There were no signs of forced entry. Police are investigating.
- At 7:46 p.m., police responded to Germaine Lawrence School after a credit card was stolen from a purse.
- At 7:54 p.m., police received a call from Arlington High School after money was taken from an unlocked locker in a girls' locker room.

Wednesday, Jan. 5

- At 10:58 a.m., police responded to Franklin and Warren streets about a four-car motor vehicle accident. One person was transported to a hospital for minor injuries and a driver was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign.
- At 11:10 a.m., police received a call from a Massachusetts Avenue business after a black pocketbook was stolen from the back of a chair.
- At 3:36 p.m., a Fremont Street resident called police after a car's paint was scratched and hubcap dented.
- At 4:30 p.m., police responded to Medford Street and Mystic Valley Parkway about a motor vehicle accident.

Open House

Jan. 27

7-8 PM

All Welcome

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Jan. 4

- At 4:42 p.m., police arrested Yolanda P. Carson, 24, 16 Wellington Hill St., Apt. 1, Mattapan, and charged her with violating an abuse prevention order. Officer Gary Flavin responded to Broadway Plaza concerning a possible restraining order violation. Flavin spoke to the reporting party who said he had a restraining order against Carson and she earlier approached him on an MBTA bus. Police found Carson on Warren Street and Flavin made the arrest.
- At 8:05 p.m., police arrested Micris Godfrey, 19, 180 Jerome St., Medford, and charged him on a warrant for possessing a Class D substance. Officer Douglas Cronin responded to a disturbance call on Gardner Street. While at the scene, Cronin found one of the people at the home had a warrant for his arrest. Cronin made the arrest.

Wednesday, Jan. 5

• At 9:15 p.m., police arrested Jason Elliot Panjian, 33, 100 Ledgewood Drive., Apt. 220, Stoneham, and charged him with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and leaving the scene of an accident that included property damage. Officer Dennis Mahoney responded to Massachusetts Avenue concerning a motor

vehicle accident. A motorist told police she was stopped for a red light at Massachusetts Avenue and Teel Street when her car was struck from behind. She told police the motorist fled the scene. Police found a vehicle that matched the description on Fairmont Street. After the accident at Mass. Ave. and Teel, Panjian reportedly rear-ended another car. Police spoke to the Stoneham man and asked him to perform field sobriety tests, which he failed. Mahoney made the arrest.

Thursday, Jan. 6

• At 9:09 p.m., police arrested Robert D. Provencal, 20, 402 Rindge Ave., Apt. 15H, Cambridge, and charged him on four counts of assault and battery on a police officer and five warrants including one for violating an abuse prevention order. Officer Michael Wesley was on Massachusetts Avenue when he saw Provencal riding in a car. Knowing there were outstanding warrants for the Cambridge man's arrest, Wesley stopped the vehicle. Wesley placed the man under arrest. While at the Community Safety Building, Provencal allegedly became combative. During an ensuing scuffle, an officer injured his knee. Provencal also reportedly spit in officers'

One driver was cited for operating a motor vehicle without a license. There were no injuries.

Friday, Jan. 7

- At 3:10 a.m., an employee at a Summer Street business called police after someone forced open a door and stole a large quantity of lottery tickets. Police are investigating.
- At 2:58 p.m., police received a call from Chestnut Street concerning someone stealing a snowblower off the back of a truck.
- At 5:40 p.m., a North Union Street resident called police regarding two males dressed in black acting suspiciously near a residence. Police searched the area, but were unable to locate the suspects.
- · At 5:51 p.m., a Warren Street resident called police after someone pried open a dow and stole jewelry, credit cards and checks from a residence.
- At 5:56 p.m., a pedestrian told police she was struck by a motor vehicle in front of Town Hall on Massachu-

the scene. The pedestrian suffered a minor injury. She gave a description of the vehicle and police spoke to witnesses. They narrowed the search to a vehicle in Medford. Police are investi-· At 7:39 p.m., a Central Street resi-

setts Avenue. The driver reportedly left

dent called police after a snow plow damaged a driveway.

Saturday, Jan. 8

 At 12:20 p.m., a Princeton Road resident called police after someone stole blank checks. Police identified a suspect and are investigating.

 At 5:28 p.m., police received a call after a wallet was taken from a handbag at a Massachusetts Avenue busi-

Sunday, Jan. 9

• At 4:14 a.m., police responded to a Broadway business after a safe was reported stolen. A large quantity of cash was taken. There were no signs of forced entry.

Support group for parents

Wayside Youth & Family Support Network sponsors The PAL Parent Support Group, designed to provide resources and conversation for parents of children with significant mental health needs.

The group meets on the first and third Thursday evenings of each month at 406 Massachusetts Ave., from 7-9:30 p.m.

Please call Anne Sullivan at 781-643-2580 x 123 for more information.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 13

- Cemetery Commission meets at 9 a.m. in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
- Community Based Health Insurance Study Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, firstfloor conference room

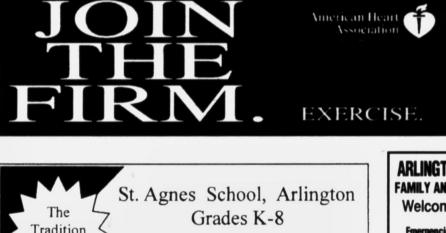
Tuesday, Jan. 18

- Arlington High School Council meets at 5 p.m. in the school's Media
- Tri-Community Working Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, second
- · Reservoir Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.
- Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second floor.

Wednesday, Jan. 19 · Recycling Committee meets at

- 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room. • Human Rights Commission meets at 8 p.m. in the Jefferson Cut-
- ter House Thursday, Jan. 20 • Information Technology Com-
- mittee meets at 6 p.m. in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall, second floor
- Field Maintenance and User Fee Study Committee meets at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first-floor conference room.
- Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Department of Public Works conference room, Town Hall Annex, second floor.
- Council on Aging meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.





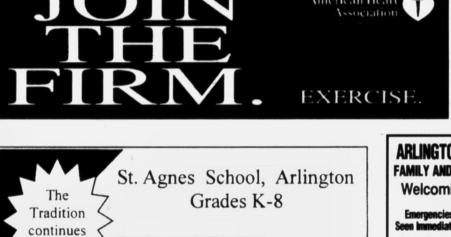
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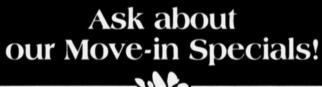


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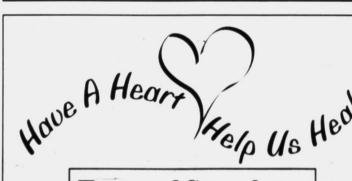
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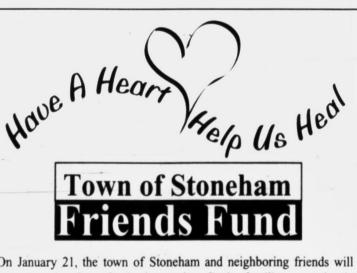
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On January 21, the town of Stoneham and neighboring friends will come together for a fund-raiser to benefit the families most deeply affected by the tragic accident at Central Elementary School. The fund-raiser will be held at the Montavale Plaza in Stoneham featuring silent and live auctions, raffles, door prizes and entertainment. Over 600 tickets have been sold and donations can still be made to:

Town of Stoneham Friends Fund C/O 10 Hillside Avenue



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Friday, Jan. 14 • FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:40; 9:45

• NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 2:30; 5; 7:30; 10

 THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (R) 2:20; 4:50; 7:20; 9:50 • BEYOND THE SEA (PG13) 7:35; 10:05

RAY (PG13) 6:50; 9:40

• I HEART HUCKABEES (R) 5:30; 7:45; 9:55 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) 1:35; 3:35

SHARK TALE (PG) 1:40; 3:40

Saturday-Monday, Jan. 15-17

• FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) 11:20; 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:40; 9:45

• NATIONAL TREASURE (PG) 12; 2:30; 5; 7:30; 10

• THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES (R) 11:50; 2:20; 4:50; 7:20; 9:50 • BEYOND THE SEA (PG13) 7:35; 10:05

• RAY (PG13) 6:50; 9:40

• I HEART HUCKABEES (R) 5:30; 7:45; 9:55 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) 11:35; 1:35;

• SHARK TALE (PG) 11:40; 1:40; 3:40

Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 18-20 • FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) 1:25; 3:30; 5:35; 7:40; 9:45

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• THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (PG) 1:35; 3:35

• SHARK TALE (PG) 1:40; 3:40

Town warrant is open

At its Dec. 20 meeting, the annual Town Meeting. Board of Selectmen voted to open the warrant for the

The warrant will remain

open until noon Friday, Jan. 21.

Questions part of census

In the coming weeks, residents will be receiving the annual town census from the town of Arlington.

This year's census includes an insert from the Arlington. Human Rights Commission describing its work followed the group's work.

by a short questionnaire. The commission would appreciate it if residents could take five minutes to complete the questionnaire and return it with their town census.

Feedback will greatly assist

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Legislature hasn't approved town's home rule petition By Roberto Scalese Arlington may change its

liquor laws this year, but it first has to wait for the Legislature to give them that option.

Town Meeting voted last year to place questions on the April 2 town ballot that would extend full liquor sale licenses for package stores and increase the number of full alcoholic beverages licenses for restaurants from five to 10. Those changes require the consent of the state Legislature. The subsequent bills filed have died in the committee process.

The town's home rule petition, along with those of many other communities, have been wiped out by the end of the last legislative term. The bills have been re-filed by state Rep. Jim Marzilli, D-Arlington.

"Obviously in the case of the two liquor questions, we want

Obviously in the case of the two liquor questions, we want them approved soon to get them on the spring ballot.

Local liquor bills stalled

State Rep. Jim Marzilli

them approved soon to get them on the spring ballot," said Marzilli.

The bills had made their way out of the appropriate committees, but were held up by the Steering Policy and Scheduling Committee. Marzilli said that body is a holdover from the obstructionist days of the former speaker of the house.

"It's another product of the delays left over from the Tom Finneran days," said Marzilli. "He set up a number of graveyard committees as a way to bottleneck the process.

Town Counsel John Maher said the re-filing should give the town enough time to place the question on the spring ballot. He added the town may include warrant articles at this year's Town Meeting to send the question back to the Legislature just in case the re-filed bills also stall.

We may resubmit them into the warrant just in case, but it should be enough to re-file the bills," said Maher.

Selectmen Chairman Diane Mahon had previously said she planned several open forums and meetings for residents to

discuss the possible new liquor licenses. So far, there have not been any meetings. She could not be reached for comment this week.

Marzilli said the Legislature is working to eliminate some of the extraneous boards and committees that were formed to obstruct business, but it is tak ing time. Leaders in both houses have expressed interest in streamlining the process for all bills, and especially home rule petitions, said Marzilli.

"I think because of my concern about Arlington and towns in general, I've been working with the clerk on some changes. said Marzilli

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Program explores mental illness information. The course is not

Do you have a family member over 15 years old with a major mental illness? Do you wonder what this "brain disorder" is all about?

A free NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program starting Jan. 18 in Winchester is designed to help answer caregiver (family) questions. The teachers will present up-to-date information on clinical treatment for major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bor-

derline personality disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program meets weekly for 12 Tuesdays from 7 until 9:30 p.m. Jan. 18 through mid-April. The program breaks for school vacations and is limited to 20 persons. Early sign-up is recommended. Call Pam (617-484-7938) or Susan (617-224-3107) for location and other

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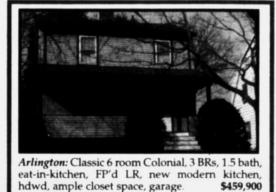
Newly converted Townhouse Condos, prime Heights loc, 5 rm, 2 BR, 2 level units, maple & granite kits, tile BAs, hdwd, 2 car pkg, decks or patios, some w/FP. \$317,900 - \$349,900



Arlington: New custom built Colonial, street, premier Heights location, open flr plan, custom kitchen, 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs, hdwd, \$729,000



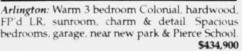
Arlington: Lovely 3 BR Colonial, Brackett location, 2 FPs, formal dining room, eat-inkitchen, hdwd, new windows & roof, near





Red line, center & major commuter routes

Arlington: Warm 3 bedroom Colonial, hardwood















































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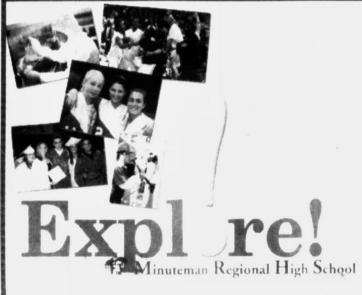
Multi-chamber seminar features Barry, Eliot

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce will take part in a multi-chamber breakfast seminar to hear about entrepreneurship from two savvy mar-

keters named Barry and Eliot. The event will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. Jan. 19 at the new Jordan's Furniture, 50 Walker's Brook Drive, Reading (Exit 39 off **Route 128)**

The seminar will include a Continental breakfast and network with Chamber members from a dozen area chambers.

Members \$10 and non-members \$20. Register online at http://www.arlcc.org/events.ph p or call the Arlington Chamber of Commerce at 781-643-



inuteman Regional High School's cutting-edge, industry-endorsed educational programs offer students a more focused route toward higher education and career success. Minuteman offers twenty-three career and technical study areas ranging from automotive and construction to graphics and culinary arts to biotechnology and computer programming and much more.

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Abbott seeks greater affordability

By Roberto Scalese

After 10 years on the Arlington Housing Authority, Freeland Abbott said he still wants to help Arlington create more affordable housing and advocate for those already in affordable housing.

Abbot said his 10 years on the authority has helped him understand the state's Byzantine laws and regulations around affordable housing.

"The Housing Authority is a weird animal." said Abbott, who is a Town Meeting and Democratic Town Committee member. He also served for 22 years in the US Air Force, where he retired as a lieutenant colonel

The laws and regulations that guide housing authorities around the state are hindered by wellmeaning but vague tack-ons politicians win to curry favor with voters. As a result, housing law in Massachusetts is a hodgepodge of different standards and ideas that no longer fit into a cohesive package, he said.

"We keep finding things that preclude us from getting things done," said Abbott, who is running for re-election to the Housing Authority in the April 2 elec-

The resulting porridge of laws and regulations make it hard for the board to finish its work. After nearly 10 years of waiting, the authority has been given a green light to replace kitchens and bathrooms in Menotomy Manor, but the state is now requiring some units to be handicappedaccessible. Because of the building structures, that may require tearing down whole houses and replacing them, which carries an expensive price tag.

Abbott said he was especially concerned about the elevators in the senior housing buildings. Repairing and replacing the units will cost upward of \$3 million, but the state won't pick up the tab, and the town's authority doesn't have that cash on hand.

"The state will pay for major kinds of problems and the Housing Authority through rent will take care of smaller stuff," said Abbott. "We have to figure out a way to solve the elevator problem. The money doesn't grow on

Still, Abbott feels he has accomplished much during his time on the board. He's most proud of efforts to add air conditioning to senior housing common areas

"It enables the Housing Authority's senior properties to act as an emergency shelter during heat waves for the elderly in town," said Abbott. "I had a long list of things I wanted to get done

STAFF PHOTO BY ROBERTO SCALESE

Freeland Abbott

when I first joined the board and almost all of them are done."

Another major accomplishment was making walls at Menotomy Manor water-tight. Before, strong rainstorms could drive water through the porous brick exteriors, where the moisture would damage electrical sys-

"You have to grind it out. You have to learn what all the ins and outs are and you have to keep pushing," said Abbott.

While Abbott said Arlington is at the forefront of the affordable housing debate in the state, there's still much to be done.

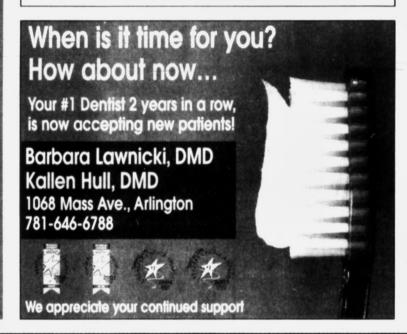
"I don't think anyone is doing enough to solve the problem to solve it. In a sense, the American dream is messed up for those who are left behind," said

Abbott said this is the last time he plans to run for the Housing Authority seat.

"I'm only planning to run this one last time," said Abbott. "I ran twice before I was elected and I attended housing meetings for vears before I ran the first time.

E-mail the editor of The Arlington Advocate at

arlington@cnc.com



Local reps at Open House

State Rep. Jay Kaufman (D-Lexington) kicks off 2005 with an "Open House" forum entitled "A New Legislative Session Begins: A Conversation With Your State House Reps."

The forum will take place on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the National Heritage Museum at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Marrett Road (Route 2A) in Lex-

Kaufman's guests will be state Rep. Jim Marzilli, Patrick Natale, Anne Paulsen and Tom Stanley, the four legislators with whom he shares the responsibility of representing Arlington, Lexington and Woburn. Residents are invited to come meet their representatives and share thoughts

and questions about issues that affect our community. As always, audience participation will largely shape the conversa-

"Open House," is a collaborative effort of Kaufman and the museum. The series has been awarded the prestigious Beacon Award as the nation's best government relations series. "Open House" is taped for broadcast throughout eastern Massachu-

For a complete schedule of the 10th season of "Open House," check Kaufman's Web

http://jaykaufman.com/openhouse.shtml. For further information, please call Kaufman's State House office 617-722-2552.

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development in East Arlington is a 27 unit building consisting of 1 ing space for a one bedroom, to 1,500 s.f. for the three bedroom eatures include stainless steel appliances, wood flooring, granite countertops, elevator, garage parking, security

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smoking program A free quit smoking program

Free quit

will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20 at Robbins Library.

The event is open to the Arlington community.

Space is limited. To register, call the Tobacco Education Department at 781-316-3564 and leave name and number. The program is sponsored by the Elizabeth and George L. Sanborn, Foundation of Arlington.



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By Erin Dower NC STAFF WRITER

Parishioners at Immaculate Conception Parish in Cambridge joined thousands of other displaced Catholics in search of a new spiritual home after they said their final goodbyes to their church last week-

But at least some members of the Alewife Brook Parkway parish tried to see Sunday's final Mass as much a beginning as it was an ending.

"We will take our faith with us," said the Rev. Richard Cornell, an administrator at the Immaculate Conception Parish.

The Alewife Brook Parkway facility is the third church to close that served Arlington parishioners. St. Jerome and St. James closed late last year with parishioners moving to St. Camillus, St. Agnes

Woman

A 63-year-old Lexington

woman was listed in stable con-

dition at Beth Israel Hospital

Tuesday after being struck by a

a crosswalk near 164 Massa-

chusetts Ave., in East Arlington

when she was struck by a Cam-

bridge resident's motor vehicle

around 4 p.m. Monday. Police

cited the driver for failing to

yield to a pedestrian in a cross-

his department is investigating

the accident, but doesn't think

speed or driver negligence were

is clear she was in the crosswalk

when she was struck," said

Support

group available

and connection.

The Breast Cancer Support

Group welcomes new members

for its cozy community group for

ongoing support, information

Arlington, former Symmes Hos-

pital, from 4 to 5:15 p.m. Tues-

Please call Mary Lewis Shee-

han at 781-641-9962 or e-mail

marylewis73@hotmail.com.

The group meets at Lahey-

Ryan.

"We're still in the process of interviewing some witnesses. It

By Les Masterson

Police Chief Fred Ryan said

The woman was crossing in

car on Monday afternoon.

hit on

Mass.

and St. Eulalia in Winchester.

Immaculate Conception opened in 1926 and held its last service at 10:30 a.m. last Sunday. The church had about 500 parishioners, including about 200 Haitians.

Many Haitian parishioners will move to St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, and other members of the Immaculate Conception Parish will take their faith to St. Agnes or St. Camillus churches in Arlington, Cornell said.

Nekita Lamour, one of the Haitian parishioners, said she is concerned about Haitian Catholics being uprooted again. "This is our second or third move," she

Haitian Catholics from Cambridge, Somerville, Malden, Everett and other communities were forced to leave the Our Lady of Pity Parish in Cambridge when it closed in September 2003.

Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley announced in May the church the Haitians joined, Immaculate Conception, must also close its doors as part of the archdiocese's decision to close 67 Catholic churches in the region.

The Archdiocese of Boston announced in November it was looking for sales proposals for 16 churches. But the Archdiocese has no plans to sell Immaculate Conception on Alewife Brook Parkway, according to spokesperson Kathleen

"There is no plan in place for that property," Heck said. "It's just too early."

Lamour said she feels optimistic that St. John's will be a permanent place for Haitians to worship, hold events and build youth programs.

"I think the community needs stability," she said. "I'm seeing a community that's deteriorating. In other words, what's happening in Haiti is happening here.

But Lamour said she envisions a "vibrant" church for Haitians.

"I'm hoping the move will be part of a new start, a new year, new change," she

Cornell said he also feels closing the Immaculate Conception Parish will not

deter Catholics from practicing. "Of course we are sad about the church closing and the people having to go somewhere else," he said. However, "it is not

a matter of where you are practicing. It is a matter that you take your faith with

CNC staff member Chris Helms contributed to this report.

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Burglar flees Franklin Street home Sunday

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MAKING YOUR CASE If the negligent acts of another At our practice, we see each of our

By Les Masterson

An elderly Franklin Street woman frightened away a burglar Sunday night after the suspect forced open a basement door.

A relative of the woman called police shortly after 11 p.m. to report the burglary. The elderly woman told police she was in bed when she heard someone at the door. She looked out a window on the second floor and saw someone standing on the steps. Believing the person was one of her sons, she went back to bed, according to police.

person cause injury to someone else, don't be surprised if the negligent

party's insurance company rebuffs damage claims. In most cases, there

will be denial of liability. By saying

that the policyholder was not to

blame for the accident, the insurance

company may hope that the accident

victim takes its word at face value or

will drop his or her claim in

frustration. Whichever is the case,

accident victims should make a point

of consulting with an attorney to

discuss the facts of their cases. This

initial consultation will enable the

lawyer to assess the facts of the case

and give an opinion as to whether the

matter should be pursued through

legal channels.

A few moments later, she heard someone walking on the first floor. She yelled her son's name, which caused the burglar to run down the stairs into the basement and out the cellar door. She then called a relative, who notified police.

Police investigated and found "significant damage" to a basement door and footprints in the snow leading around the house, which stopped at the street. The Franklin Street resident is not sure if anything was taken.

Police secured the basement door, have increased patrols in the area and are investigating.

clients as individuals, not just

another case to be settled or litigated

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HINT: Most personal injury cases

are conducted on a contingency-fee

basis, which leaves the accident

victim with little or no out-of-pocket

Flu clinic today

Renaissance Health in partnership with the Arlington Board of Health will host a flu clinic from 10 a.m. to noon Renaissance Health, 61 Mass-

For more information on the flu clinic, please call the Arlington Board of Health flu today, Thursday, Jan. 13 at clinic hotline at 781-316-3413.

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before the state board or commission

workers' compensation provides a administrative judge usually hears the case and renders a decision.

> Since Workers' Compensation claims can be very complicated, it may be helpful to discuss your rights and responsibilities, with a lawyer who concentrates in handling Workers' Compensation cases. These lawyers often know the "system" inside and out, and in most cases obtain higher benefits than you could by yourself. For further information or to discuss another personal injury matter, contact out office to schedule a consultation.

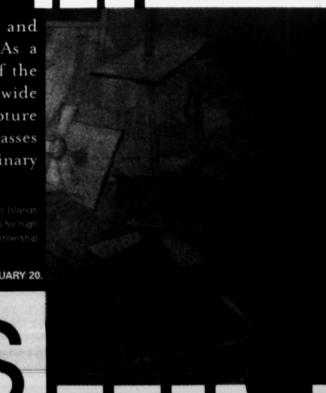
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Continuing Education Office



Event honors abolitionists

Robbins Library's Children's Services Department is offering a program called Freedoms and Songs on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. This presentation by actor and storyteller Valerie Stephens presents stories of courageous Americans, who risked their lives to bring an end to slavery.

Stephens is accomplished performer, who has appeared at the Boston Children's Museum, Museum of Science and on WGBH television.

For additional information about this performance, please call 781-316-3234

Rushing the featured speaker at MLK event

State Rep. Byron Rushing is the featured speaker at the 17th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance scheduled for Monday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Arlington.

All interested members of the Arlington and surrounding communities are invited to attend this event.

The evening begins with a potluck dinner in the church banquet hall. Those attending are asked to bring a main dish or dessert to serve six adults. Following this dinner, the program will begin in the church sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Those who cannot attend the potluck dinner are welcome to attend the program.

Rushing brings a strong background in community organizing and Afro-American history to his work as a state representative. He is an advocate for local human, economic and housing development; and healthcare for all. He was an original sponsor of Massachusetts' gay rights bill and chief sponsor of a bill to end discrimination in public schools based on sexual orientation. He has also provided leadership on the state's anti-apartheid efforts, and efforts to prevent restoration of the death penalty.

Rushing represents the Boston neighborhoods of the South End, the Fenway, and Kenmore Square, as well as parts of Roxbury and Cambridge. He has chaired the House committees on Counties, Local Affairs, Public Service and Insurance. As chair of the Insurance Committee, he successfully worked for health insurance reform to allow individuals with pre-existing conditions to obtain coverage

From 1972 to 1985, Rushing served as president of the Museum of Afro-American History. He led an effort to purchase and restore the African Meeting House, the oldest black church building in the United States. He is an active member of the Episcopal Church and is an adjunct faculty member of the Episcopal Divinity School in

Music for the program will be provided by the Twelfth Baptist Church Hand Bell Choir. This choir was established more than 15 years ago under the direction of Juanita Hope. The Hand Bell Choir consists of eight to 12 ringers, who perform with a three-octave bell range at a number of community events.

The blessing for the evening will be provided by Zubin Talavia of the Zoroastrian Community. A song and benediction will also be offered by the Rev. Carlton Elliot Smith of the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church.

Child care will be provided for parents who wish to attend the program. Activities are planned to introduce children to the life and values of Martin Luther King Jr.

A free-will offering will be taken during the program. Pro-



State Rep. Byron Rushing

ceeds will be divided between the Arlington Public Schools, the King Center for Non-Violent Studies in Atlanta and the Arlington African American Scholarship Fund. Those who cannot attend, but would like to make a donation can send checks to the Martin Luther King Committee at 819 Mass. Ave., Arlington 02476.

The annual dinner and cele-

Registered Democrats in

Arlington will hold a caucus at

the second-floor meeting room

of the Community Safety Build-

ing, 112 Mystic St., at 10 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29 to elect 36 del-

egates and 10 alternates to the

2005 Massachusetts Democra-

tic Convention. Delegates will

be divided equally between

on Saturday, May 14 at the Paul

E. Tsongas Arena in Lowell. At

that time, Democrats from

across the state will gather to

review and approve the party

platform, a document that will

serve as the official political

ton as of Dec. 31, 2004. Please

admitted after 10:15 a.m.

The convention will be held

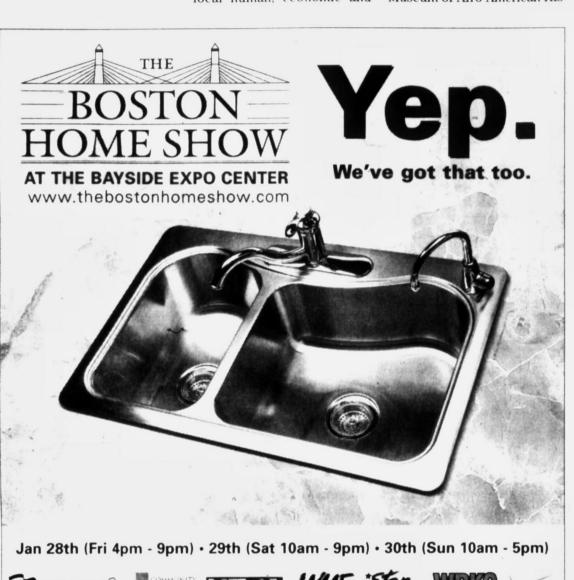
men and women.

Democrats schedule

caucus for convention

bration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day is coordinated by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee of Arlington, an interfaith committee of Arlington residents.

The First Baptist Church of Arlington is located at 819 Mass. Ave., across from Johnnie's Foodmaster. For more information about this event, please call 781-643-4345.



Cookies are

The cookie sale is an important fund raiser for Girl Scout troops and the money generated supports the many programs in Girl Scouting. Please look for your neighborhood Girl Scout to place an order or purchase cookies

Girls will be going door to door taking orders until Jan. 30. Booth sales at local businesses will be happening peri-

This year, the girls will be selling eight varieties including Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Thin Mints, Shortbread, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Reduced Fat Lemon Pastry Cremes, Animal Treasures and Iced Berry Pinatas.

on the way

The annual Girl Scout

at a troop run cookie booth.

odically until March 20.

cookie sale is underway.

agenda of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. A series of public hearings have been scheduled so that Democrats throughout the state can contribute to the development of this important document. The caucus is open to all Democrats registered in Arling-

Candidates for delegate and alternate must consent to nomination in writing. Anyone who would like to be a delegate but who cannot be present at the caucus should send a letter of notification to Aimee Coolidge (chair of the Arlington Democratic Town Committee), 18 Stevens Terrace, Arlington, MA

02476, before the caucus date. Elected delegates must pay the convention registration fee of \$55 (which can be waived in cases of hardship).

Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation or economic status in the conduct of the caucus is strictly prohibited. Challenges to the delegate selection process can be filed with the Massachusetts Democratic Party, 10 Granite St., Quincy, MA 02169 no later than 10 days after the caucus date.

For more information, please contact the Democratic arrive by 10 a.m.; no one will be State Committee at 617-472-0637.

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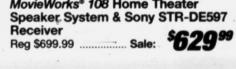
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

DPW suggests latex paint

Most paints and stains are now made with a water base. These are less hazardous and neater to work with. Choose them in place of hazardous oilbased options.

If you are doing painting or remodeling around your house, please do not save water based (latex) paint to bring to the hazardous waste site in Lexington next spring. Although you are trying to do the right thing, it is not necessary and costly for the town to dispose of it that way.

To avoid having excess paint, buy only what you need. Of course, the best method to get rid of what you don't need is to donate it. Quantities of four gallons or more can be donated to BMRC: They will pick it up call them at 617-442-8917 to see if they are interested in what you have to donate.

They also take other unneeded building materials like windows, cabinets and lumber. There are some nonprofits that will take paint to use for cleanup, scenery and art projects. If your group is interested in any of the unused paint, please call the DPW at 781-316-3105 and the department will compile a list.

Last, if you cannot find any method of reuse, latex and water-based paints can be put in the regular trash. Small amounts can be dried just be opening the cover. Larger quantities need to have shredded newspaper, kitty litter or paint hardener (available at most hardware stores) added to them to dry enough to put in trash.

Responsible for shoveling

The town does not plow sidewalks or the Minuteman Trail. Residents and businesses are reminded it is the responsibility of the owner to shovel all sidewalks surrounding a property.

For the safety of yourself and others residents, please shovel as soon as possible. Violations are subject to fees (Town Bylaw Title III, Article I, Sections 24-Section 26).

The DPW would like to remind drivers that the blue sand barrels, located around town, are for their use whenever needed. There is also a pile at the edge of the town yard parking lot on Grove Street that is available for residents to take at their convenience. Please drive safely during this snow and ice season.

Thermometers available

Flu season is upon us. The town of Arlington has received a new supply of digital fever thermometers.

They are safe, accurate instruments that are similar to those used in most doctor's offices and hospitals. To



Department of Public Works employee Teresa Schanda shows off sneakers turned in during a recent Recycling Day at the DPW yard on Grove Street.

receive a thermometer, bring your old, glass mercury thermometer to the DPW office on the second floor of the Town Hall Annex.

To ensure proper handling of the thermometers, please leave glass thermometers in the plastic case, if possible. The Department of Public Works is asking each household take one thermometer to give everyone a chance to get one of the digital thermometers. You may dispose of all that you have.

We also accept old household thermostats that contain mercury. These can also be dropped off at the Public Works Dispatch office at 51 Grove St., or at Wanamaker Hardware on Mass. Ave. in the Heights. You will not receive a replacement thermometer.

This program was made possible through the Department of Environmental Protection who is working with Wheelabrator Incinerator to divert some of the mercury that is being disposed of in our household waste. Call the Department of Public Works at 781-316-3105 for more information.

Drop off bulbs at Wanamaker

You may bring old fluorescent bulbs to Wanamaker Hardware Store on Massachusetts Avenue in the Heights for recycling.

Mark Wanamaker from Wanamaker Hardware is dedicated to recycling and the removal of hazardous waste. He is helping the town with the collection of fluorescent bulbs and mercury-containing thermometers, thermostats and switches. Wanamaker Hardware is located in Arlington Heights at 1298 Mass. Ave., phone number 781-643-1900.

Thermostats and fluorescent bulbs from residents and businesses can be brought to that location during regular business hours. The state assists Arlington in paying for removal of the hazardous materials. Please dispose of these items properly to avoid contaminating the solid waste stream.

Fee charged for white goods

The town has been charging a \$15 fee for disposal of the following items: dishwashers, washing machines, dryers, oil burner, air conditioners, hot water heaters, stoves, refrigerators and freezers (doors removed).

To have an appliance removed, Arlington residents must purchase a \$15 sticker from the DPW office in Town Hall at least 24 hours before regular trash day. Once you have paid for and attached the sticker to the item, you will be given a pick-up date.

The item must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on the designated day. If time allows, stickers can be purchased through the mail. CRTs (Cathode Ray Tubes from computers and TVs) will be picked up on every Friday of each month after you purchase a \$15 sticker. The next drop off day is Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The charge will be \$10 for any items brought that day.

Call the Department of Public Works for more information at 781-316-3104.



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TAC seeks at-large member

Can you help make travel on Arlington streets safer?

As you try to make your way through the streets of Arlington, do you more often feel (a) bemused by behaviors you observe or (b) frustrated by them? Do you more often find yourself (a) shaking your head in bafflement or (b) shaking your fist in anger?

Have you noticed increases in both the numbers and the speed of vehicles in your neighborhood? In neighboring communities? Do you avoid some travel routes at particular times of day or on some days of the week because of backups and delays?

Are you bewildered by complicated intersections, confused by traffic signs or signals in town? Do you walk or bike less often because you no longer feel safe walking and biking?

Do you wish someone would do something about these problems?

Well, a small group of Arlingtonians has been doing something and will be able to do more with your help.

Since spring 2001, when the Arlington Board of Selectmen voted to form the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), it has been working on inventive ways to deal with the myriad of traffic and transportation issues in the town.

There is now a vacancy for an at-large member for TAC and the committee is looking for someone who cares enough to help it tackle some of these problems.

You don't have to have any particular training or experience. Some members of TAC are professional transportation planners, some are experienced project managers and others are better, versed in community activism. TAC includes police, public works and planning department staff, members representing school and business interests, three citizens from specific geographic areas of town and two other at-large members.

All are dedicated to making changes that will improve the safety of Arlington streets for

everyone who uses them, whether drivers, cyclists or pedestrians. The group tackles specific problems that are referred by the selectmen while keeping big-picture issues in view so as not to create new problems while "solving" the one at hand.

TAC has developed a standard set of decision criteria that guides our decision-making and always recruit people close to a particular problem to serve on our working groups. You can find detailed information regarding past and current projects on the TAC Web site: tac.arlington.ma.us/index.htm.

What TAC now needs is another person with fresh ideas and energy to join in TAC's ongoing efforts.

If you think you have something to offer, please send a letter of interest along with information about your background to the Board of Selectmen, Arlington Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington 02476.

Submitted by the Transportation Advisory Committee.



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Crayons, Clay, and Squeaky Violins... Should Schools Invest In The Arts?

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expanding elementary program.

Faced with smaller budgets and increased requirements, many schools reduce their investment in arts programs, and children's schedules include less time for art. To be honest, maybe learning to make a pretty picture is less important than learning to multiply or read, or knowing something about American history.

And if that's what art were, we'd agree. But strong airts programs are not about painting nicely: A great arts program more typically focuses on consolidating and strengthening important academic skills. Instead of detracting

from academic quality, a great arts program can be a catalyst for excellence

Working The Brain

The arts can play an essential role in the process of learning. Art projects help young children develop motor skills—and fine motor skills are connected to mathematical and musical-

abilities. Art also stretches a child's focus and attention like a muscle—children slow down and attend when they are making art. Even children with attention issues will focus for art. In addition, many art projects challerige a child's ability to follow multi-step directions—often children must infer and deduce steps along the way, which involves their growing skills in logical thinking.

The arts help children strengthen cognitive skills, too, such as listening, thinking, problem-solving, matching form to function, and decision-making. These are vital capacities that allow children to absorb, understand, and organize what they learn about the world.

Express Yourself!
What is in your head? Now how do you get

that on paper? How do you express yourself so

that others can see what you see? This is the heart of the arts. Art asks for reflection on the content and the process of learning. It fosters a deeper level of communication about what knowledge is

Art is also a social enterprise—a way to share one's imagination and observations, a way to convey a feeling or a thought. The arts nurture a sense of belonging and foster a sense of individuality. Most importantly, they offer children opportunities to explore their own world and journey to new ones—past, present and future—with new

and future—with new people and new cultures.

Practice Makes Perfect

Perhaps more than any other endeavor, the arts provide children with a powerful means of self-assessment. Children can easily see their growth in the visual arts, in music, in dramatic performance.

Children can track their improvement by flipping through a sketchbook, by looking back at old music books, examining the small clay pots they have produced over the year. Art creates a sense of personal history—a tangible story of who one was at a given moment, what one was thinking, what progress was made. Through the arts, children internalize the value of persistence. Art helps children to develop a tangible sense of what potential means.

And that is, perhaps, one of the greatest gifts of the arts—because it is the gift of believing in oneself and others, of knowing that great things do not come easily. It is the gift of valuing effort, of accepting that individuals can change and grow, and that mistakes are not forever. Art creates a generous spirit, and, in that, art is life itself.

Lesley Ellis School offers an exceptional progressive elementary and early childhood program with a nationally recognized antibias curriculum Visit lesleyellis org to find out more.

Lesley Ellis School, Arlington, MA 02474 www.lesleyelliscom 781.727.5987



Perspectives

Election policy

Candidates have already started taking out papers from the Town Clerk's office for the April 2 election and we felt this would be a good time to inform readers about our election policies.

Candidate statements: Candidates running for town-wide office have until 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 28 to submit their candidate statements. We will run the statements in the issue of March 3

The announcement should be under 400 words and can include a submitted photo for publication. As with letters to the editor, we reserve the right to edit announcements for length and clar-

Letters to the editor: Letters from candidates or supporters should be 400 words or less and must include the writer's name, address, and phone number for verification. Note: The Advocate only runs a person's name, street name, and title (where applicable), *unless the writer is from out-of-town, at which time we will run the town or city of residence.

No letters will be published in the issue immediately prior to the election, unless, in the editor's judgment, they are necessary to respond to claims made against the candidate and are limited to that response. Readers are also welcome to submit letters (also with a

limit of 400 words) on issues raised during the campaign.

Because of space limitations, The Advocate may not be able to run every letter we receive. At that point, we will run a representative sampling of let-

The most reliable way to send letters is through e-mail. At that time, you are assured that we have received the letter if you receive a response from us. If you fax or mail a letter, it is best that you call editor Les Masterson at 781-674-7726 to make sure the letter has

Campaign notebook: Candidates can send campaign information that will be included into a campaign notebook. To be assured that items will go into that week's paper, we need candidates and readers' political correspondence by noon on Monday of that week.

Voters guide: In addition to the annual League of Women Voters of Arlington Voters Guide we publish each March, The Advocate will run its own guide in the March 31 issue, which will include candidate Q&A and biographical information.

Candidate endorsements: Editor Les Masterson will interview candidates running in contested town-wide races and The Advocate will print endorsement editorials in the March 31 issue.



Comicazi recently opened in Arlington Heights. In addition to comics, the store sells retro toys like ones from The Muppet Show and Fraggle Rock.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Problem with statement

'm not a fan of development, and see many awful examples of it everywhere, but I found myself agreeing with parts of Nicholas Xenos's letter about current residential development in Arlington ("Opines on development," Jan. 6 Advo-

It's not always a negative thing, and sometimes our opposition to it is more emotional than logical. I even think the developer he refers to, Michael Collins, is doing a decent job in terms of site suitability and overall appearance of his pro-

What I disagree with is Mr. Xenos's comment that the Time Olds site, in particular, will provide "much-needed housing." These units start at \$599,900 — I can't imagine that any potential buyer of housing at this price could be said to be in need.

Mr. Collins is the developer of all the sites Mr. Xenos mentioned, and in addition, he will also be developing the former Boston Federal Savings Bank site on Massachusetts Avenue. He is the predominant residential developer in Arlington, and must be profiting handsomely on his work. However, to my knowledge, he has yet to construct a single unit of affordable housing and in fact eluded this requirement at the Time Olds site.

Some degree of development is inevitable, and maybe even occasionally desirable. Rather than fighting development per se, how about making sure that developers contribute to our town by requiring a certain number of affordable units per developer, rather than per devel-

If this were the case, Mr. Collins would owe the town quite a few units of truly "much-needed housing" the next time he breaks ground.

Wynelle Evans

ORCHARD PLACE Editor's Note: Developer Michael Collins built the housing development at 30 Water St., which was the first project in Arlington under the inclusionary zoning bylaw. The bylaw requires developments to set aside one affordable unit for every six constructed.

Different perspective on developments

read with interest Mr. Xenos' letter last week. I am an Arlington native with quite a different perspective.

I don't fear change (for the better) nor do I not want others not to have what I have since, indeed, I could never hope to afford purchasing a home in Arlington at today's prices. As for minding my own business, it's my town too even if I don't

own property here or anywhere else.

Maybe we're all just sick of the outcomes of the greed of some, not all, developers who choose to build in this town. Cases in point: The Mirak lot that stretches from Arlington Center back to the Minuteman Trail. Was the original lot attrac-

It did have something that the new development doesn't — trees, grass and other greenery. Instead of improving the lot with buildings appropriately sized and landscaped, every last inch was built out for the sake of the precious dollar.

Ugly as it is, it doesn't come close to the abomination that was erected at the corner of Mill and Summer streets.

What do these developments have in common? No porches, no trees, no character. Just big ugly gray slabs. But no matter, every square foot is worth several thousand dollars — don't want to scrimp on profit now, do we?

Did these developers consider aesthetic or environmental improvements, i.e., trees for shade in the summer, solar panels or any other new technology that isn't governmentally mandated? Oh dear no, that would cut into the profit margins

I've yet to find anyone who thinks the new buildings replacing the Time Oldsmobile look much better.

In contrast, the condos built on the old Baybank lot are a vast improvement to the former situation. Also, I know local developers who refurbish houses and actually improve the lots prior to selling.

East Arlington housing was built long ago. We should learn from past mistakes, not compound them.

Who can blame the Scituate Street and Knowles Farm neighbors from balking at the prospect of "McMansions" being erected in their back yards? There's no question that is exactly what they will get. They have my sympathy.

I've heard the argument that the developers are "allowed" to build like this. The lots are zoned that way. This may be true, but I wonder, isn't it time developers consider doing what is right instead of whatever they can get away with?

Lagree with Mr. Xenos on this: What I perceive my hometown has become actually does want to make me weep.

Cynthia I. Cusolito VARNUM STREET

Ouestions on hawk

rescue story

'm writing to thank you for the Dec. 23 Advocate story about the rescued redtailed hawk ("Hawk is flying high again: Bird rescued from culvert"). We're interested in any news about wildlife and nature and we live near Peirce Field and the high school.

We wanted to know more.

How could a tree be inside a dark, water-filled culvert? Doesn't it need day-

I wonder why a hawk would go in there — so far, in the dark.

I wonder why it couldn't fly out the way it came in.

Where exactly is the culvert.

Since the hawk was weak from not eating, was it fed?

Most important, has the hawk been OK since its rescue as far as anyone can tell? Is it still seen around the high school?

I'd like to have seen a drawing showing details of the rescue.

As someone with a great interest in all this, I would have liked to see this story on the front page, with color photos of the hawk and of the fire lieutenant rescuer. To me, this was the leading story of that paper.

To answer some of these questions, we're in the process of contacting the animal control officer

Jo Ann Reneker GROVE STREET

Successful tree sale at Boys & Girls Club

Spared the several snowstorms that hampered last year's sale, the Arlington Boys & Girls Club reports that its 2004 Christmas tree sale was another

Over a three-week period,, they sold 1,500 trees and hundreds of wreaths. Club directors who organize this annual activity attribute its success to three key

First, the legion of individual volunteers who donate their time to maintaining the lot and helping customers with their purchase. Second, members of two Arlington organizations — Rotary and the Arlington High School varsity football team - whose annual commitment is critical to the sale's success. Third, to each faithful customer who returns year-afteryear to purchase their tree at the club.

This community effort makes the annual tree sale one of the club's major fund raisers. Because all proceeds go directly to youth programs at the club, all members benefit directly from the sale. **Betsy McDaniel**

FOR THE CHRISTMASTREE COMMITTEE ARLINGTON BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

AHS Friends thanks Starbucks for support

he Friends of Arlington High School is grateful to Starbucks for its recent Steve Patterson, Starbucks district

manager and Margie, the manager of

Letters policy

Do you have an opinion about a story you read? Do you disagree or agree with an editorial or another letter writer? Are you pleased or displeased about something?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, let your voice be heard and write a letter to the edi-

To be published, here is a quick idea of what we want:

- · A signature, your street address and either a daytime phone number, home phone number, or both. We will not print the information — only your name, street name, and title (where applicable). We will not print anonymous letters.
- Letters should be limited to 400

Starbucks, Arlington Center, made it

possible for the Teacher Appreciation

Committee to prepare and distribute

several gift baskets to teachers at

Arlington High School, which were

delivered prior to the December school

thrilled and appreciative. Thank you for

supporting Friends of Arlington High

School and the Arlington High Teacher

Germaine Lawrence

n behalf of the board, staff and stu-

dents of Germaine Lawrence, I want

to thank the Arlington community for the

remarkable outpouring of support for the

students at Germaine Lawrence over the

holiday season. We greatly appreciate the

kindhearted donations of gifts and spe-

cial projects that helped our girls expe-

able to provide wonderful gifts for each

of the girls on our campus, making this

year's holiday gift drive one of the most

tremendous thoughtfulness and good-

will that poured in during the holidays.

Thank you for brightening the season

for the students at Germaine Lawrence.

We were truly overwhelmed by the

successful ever.

Through the generosity, we were

rience the excitement of the season.

thanks community

Jayne Thompson

FRIENDS OF AHS

Appreciation Program.

Needless to say, the teachers were

We reserve the right to edit for _ton@cnc.com by 5 p.m. Monday.

space, clarity, and civility. The Advocate respects differences of opinions, but we also demand respectful

 If we receive multiple letters on the same subject, we may run a sampling of opinion.

• The Advocate will not run letters from the same person in consecutive weeks.

 Letters must be dropped off at the Advocate drop box -- Community Safety Building lobby, 112 Mystic St. — by noon Monday or delivered by 5 p.m. Monday to the office at 9 Meriam St., Lexington 02420.

· Readers can also fax their letters to 781-674-7735 by 5 p.m. Mon-

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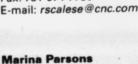
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Center intersection sees most crashes

Accidents, from Page 1

Though he is concerned about the number of accidents in the Center, Ryan said police focus on spots where there are a greater probability of injuries. One such location is Park Avenue Extension and Summer Street.

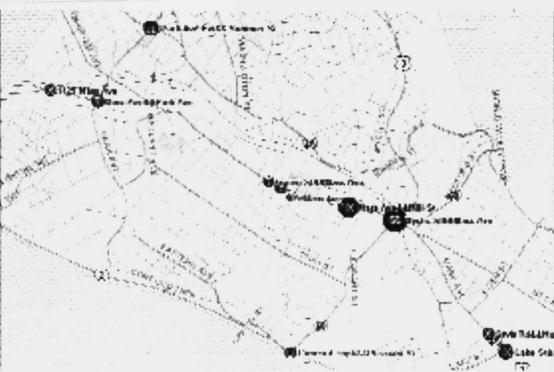
Half of the 10 reported accidents at that intersection resulted in injury. There was also a crash that resulted in a fatality, said Ryan.

Though the intersection is tied for third for most accidents, police are pleased when looking closer at the numbers. Ryan said the 10 accidents took place before August when police and TAC refocused its energy to improve the area.

Ryan said Traffic Unit head Lt. James McHugh and TAC have improved visibility in the intersection by cutting tree limbs. They also asked MassHighway to place "Signal signs and have improved traffic light lenses.

"The new larger and brighter heads were installed in the fall and make a big difference," said TAC Chairman Ed Starr.

combination of "The improvements and the less than satisfactory road surface seem to be having the proper effect," said Ryan. "Obviously, we're on top of re-engineering that intersection and working with engineers and planners to do everything we can environmentally to reduce the number of accidents there."



SOURCE: ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The 10 places with the most accidents during the first 11 months of 2004 and their

A third intersection that is often brought to light when discussing dangerous spots is the six-way in Downing Square. The Lowell/Park/Park Ave. Ext./Westminster/Bow intersection was discussed last year when a developer proposed a project at Downing Square. At that time, neighbors spoke about the dangerousness of the intersection.

Police, however, only received one call regarding a motor vehicle accident at the intersection during the first 11 months of 2004. Starr, however, said Downing Square is the second most dangerous place for pedestrians in town. TAC has studied the intersection and recommended improvements.

"It is very pedestrian (and vehicle) unfriendly, and clearly can be improved," said Starr.

Though other Arlington intersections may not have the level of crashes as ones along Massachusetts Avenue, there are other less-used roads that are of concern to police and transportation advocates.

"There are many, many

streets in Arlington that have dangerous spots that can be improved with simple and inexpensive methods," said Starr. "We keep our eyes out for these and many others are identified by residents. Unfortunately, as volunteers, we have a limited amount of time to apply.'

Though the Mass. Ave./Mystic/Pleasant intersection topped the list of accidents and Mass. Ave:/Mill/Jason finished second with 16, there is a spot between those two trouble areas that Ryan sees as

another possibly dangerous crossing.

The portion of Mass. Ave. in front of Robbins Library includes traffic leaving the library lot, drivers turning left from Water Street and pedestrians trying to cross. The combination makes for a dangerous recipe.

Ryan said police have tried improvements, including eliminating a parking space in front of Domino's Pizza to improve visibility. The selectmen also asked TAC to study Mass. Ave./Library Way.

"It's not a location with a high volume of accidents, but the potential for a pedestrian accident to me is concerning. It's something we always have to have an eye on," salk Ryan.

Ryan said his department continues to work on traffic enforcement, but the cuts made to the Traffic Unit have left a reactive force. Ryan said there were three full-time officers devoted to the Traffic Unit before the division was all but eliminated two years ago because of budget cuts.

"In terms of a proactive traffic safety program, it has been put on hold because of the reduction of force," said Ryan. "(The Traffic Unit) is part-time at best. Due to the reduction in force, we have had to use those traffic officers for routine patrol duties.

"Studies have shown enforcement works," said Ryan. "We do the best we can with what we get."

Board delays decision

Colonial, from Page 1

standards required by the town. He said current plans would relocate a historic home to the largest parcel in the subdivision.

HDC Chairman Stephen Makowka told the board the plan for the site has already been rejected by the his committee because it would negatively effect the historical structure's

"Property is an integral part of historic preservation," said Makowka.

According to Makowka, after that decision was rendered. Mackey sued the town. In the interim, the HDC has offered to meet and discuss alternatives to allow development on the site without threatening the historic nature. Those offers had been rebuffed until recently. A meeting between the developer and commission is scheduled for Jan. 27, he added.

"The next step is to come before us," said Makowka.

The selectmen said they wanted to wait for the results of that meeting before making any decision on the site.

"I don't think we should have any lengthy discussion until (the commission meeting) has taken place," said Selectman Jack Hurd.

"I feel the recommendation before us is precipitous." said

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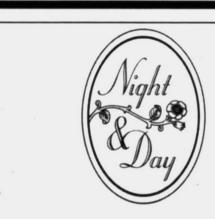
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WGBH Ice Cream Fest, pre-

sents more than 150 shows

a year at schools, libraries

and all kinds of community

are \$6 per person. Children

under 12 months are free.

They are available in

advance at Catch a Falling

Star and Michelson's Shoes

in Lexington center. Remain-

ing tickets will be sold at the

door. Proceeds will benefit

Community Nursery School.

Plan to arrive early, as street

about this event, call Linda

at 781-274-0194. More infor-

mation about Rick Goldin

can be found at www.rick-

munity Nursery School

(CNS) is a cooperative nurs-

ery school with a develop-

mental approach to educa-

tion to foster children's

social, emotional, physical

and intellectual growth.

Founded in 1945, Com-

goldin.com.

parking only is available. For more information

Tickets for the concert

and family events.

Goldin, known to many

be on sale at the event.

Goldin's lively, interactive

The concert will take

school

Community

ton Heights.

ROBBINS LIBRARY NEWS

Comic book workshop

The second of the workshop series "Create Your Own Comic Book" will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Young adults, ages 10 to 15, can participate in a 90-minute comic book and cartoon drawing workshop. This workshop is being conducted by J. Brown, a Stoneham-based comics and animation artist

The basics of how a comic book is created will be discussed, including pencilling, inking, lettering and coloring. Participants will then have the opportunity to create a comic book or cartoon of their own. Students are encouraged to create their own characters and are assisted with individual attention and encouragement.

Sign up for one or both workshops. Call the library at 781-316-3235 to inquire about availability for the second workshop of the series and leave your name and telephone number. The workshop is limited to 25

Since 1999, J. Brown has been leading the workshop for libraries across the state and is listed with the Mass. Library Association catalog of vendors.

ROBBINS LIBRARY

All programs are free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund. Visit the Robbins Library Web site at www.robbinslibrary.org.

Music, movement

Exploring Music and Movement for Children, Part II, will be presented on Saturday, Jan. 15, from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

The second of two sessions, taught by Arnie Harris, will focus on the basics of music via movement filled with fun and musically integrative activities. Through songs and games, along with having lots of fun, the children will experience and begin internalizing the elements of music.

Harris is an established entertainer and educator for young children in the Greater Boston

area. His original compositions for chorus, band and orchestra have been performed by many school and community

based ensembles. His CD, "Music for Kids," is 19 original songs for young children and includes a booklet that contains suggestions for activities and

games for each song. His fun, interactive and movement oriented musical performances are well known with kids and parents at both large events and home parties. He is the music director at the Perkins School for the Blind and also teaches instrumental music in the Newton Public Schools and music and movement for kindergarten classes in Newton

The workshop will take place in the Robbins Library Community Room and is recommended for children ages 4 to 7. Space is limited to 25. Check on availability of space for the second workshop by calling 781-316-

For more information, call the Children's Library at 781-316-3234. All programs are free and open to the public. The programs are sponsored by the Russell Trust Fund. Visit the Robbins Library Web site at www.robbinslibrary.org.

Remembering trailblazers

On Saturday, Jan. 22, Robbins Library will present Valerie Stephens in the performance, "Freedoms and Songs.

Throughout American history, there have been stories or instances of great heroism and

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has shaped the ideals of our country today. People who have obtained great personal achievements, such Ellen Craft, Fanni Lou Hamer and Henry Boxcar Brown have not received the recognition they deserved.

courage by the thousands, which

As in any history of struggle, there are many people who stood in the line of defense against racism and fighting for human rights. "Freedoms and Songs" is the stories of the courageous actions of Americans during the abolitionist movement, slavery and the Civil Rights Movement.

Stephens is a native Bostonian, who has been performing regionally and nationally for more than 30 years. As a vocalist, producer, storyteller and actor, she has developed a storytelling series, "Freedom Stories," based on the courageous actions of Americans during the abolitionist movement and slavery, which was contracted by the Underground Railroad Foundation for performance.

The performance is at 2 p.m. in the Robbins Library Community Room. A reception with the artist will follow. Space is limited. Pick up a number at the library for the performance beginning on Thursday, Jan. 20.

For more information, call the Children's Library at 781-316-3234. All programs are free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by the Russell Trust

Framed prints available

Want to spruce up your home or apartment for the new year? Borrow framed art prints from the library's beautiful and extensive collection.

The prints vary widely in size,

shape, color and subject matter, so that you are sure to find something that suits your particular taste and decorating style. Hang them on your walls for six weeks at a time, then select others for yet another change of scene.

Check out the display on the library's first floor during the month of January and see the rest of the collection on the second floor.

Limit two per customer, all free with your library card.

Volunteer needed

The Robbins Library is in need of a volunteer to work two hours per week mending books.

The work requires good finger dexterity, but no experience is needed and training will be provided. Volunteer hours must be between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

If interested, call Cindy Diminture at 781-316-3202.

Moratorium on book donations

Because of the generosity of patrons, the Robbins Library storage closets are overflowing.

The Friends of the Robbins Library has instituted a moratorium on further book donations until Wednesday, Feb. 16. The next semi-annual book sale will take place on Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26, with a preview sale for Friends' members on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Patrons wishing to donate books prior to Feb. 16 are encouraged to contact the Trinity Baptist Church at 781-643-4771. The church maintains a book collection bin for "Hands Across the Water," a group that send books to other countries to assist people learning English.

Money available to

fight homelessness

About to lose your home? Having trouble paying rent?

Arlington's Homelessness Prevention Fund may be able to help. Through private donations, the fund was established in 2001 to help Arlington residents who are at risk of becoming homeless.

viduals and families to avoid eviction when the cause is because of circumstances beyond their control. This program is not intended to be a monthly rent subsidy, and cannot be used to pay real estate taxes, utility bills or fuel costs. Security deposits are only available for people who are currently homeless or escaping domestic violence.

have annual gross household incomes that do not exceed the following income limits that are set by HUD and adjusted annu-

Two-person household — \$39,700

household-\$44,700

Four-person household -\$49,600

Five-person household — \$53,600

Six-person household— \$57,600 The maximum assistance per family is \$1,500, no more than

once per year. Applications are available immediately at Housing Corporation of Arlington's offices, 20 Academy St., second floor. For

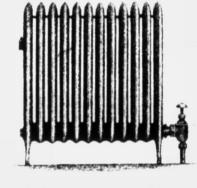
more information, call 781-316-

Election workers

sought

Residents interested in serving as election workers at the polls should please contact either Mary Ann or Jean in the office of the Board of Selectmen at 781-316-3020.

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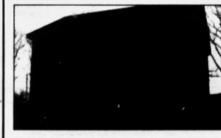


'Sweet" is the word that best describes this new home under construction steps from the new Dallin School. 9 room, 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath Center Entrance Colonial with spacious kit, 1st floor FR, 2 car garage & 9K lot. Convenient location walk to Heights & Park Circle. Offered @ \$859,900

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